

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EB-08 ISO-00 TRSE-00 SS-15 SOE-02 OES-07
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /053 W
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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4758
USDOE WASHDC PRIORITY
USDOC WASHDC

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USDOE FOR BERGOLD

USDOC FOR CAGNE

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, EMIN, OVIP, OTRA, MO
SUBJ: VISIT OF GOM MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES MOUSSA SAADI
TO US

REF: (A) STATE 41032, (B) RABAT 0983

1. DURING INFORMAL CHAT WITH AMBASSADOR AND E/C
COUNSELOR FOLLOWING OPENING CEREMONIES OF MINING
EQUIPMENT SEMINAR MARCH 7, ENERGY AND MINES MINISTER
MOUSSA SAADI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION THAT ENERGY
SECRETARY SCHLESINGER PLANNING TO RECEIVE HIM ON
MARCH 24 PER REF A, SUBSTANCE OF WHICH WE RECENTLY
CONVEYED TO MINMINES. IN LIGHT OF THIS APPOINTMENT,
SAADI SAID HE AND HIS DELEGATION NOW PLANNING TO DEPART
MOROCCO ON MARCH 20, BUT WONDERED WHETHER ANY OTHER
ARRANGEMENTS/APPOINTMENTS REQUESTED IN REF B HAD BEEN
MADE. WE REPLIED THAT NO WORD HAD BEEN RECEIVED AS
YET BUT PROMISED TO QUERY WASHINGTON FORTHWITH.
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MEANWHILE, WE ASKED WHETHER MOROCCAN EMBASSY WAS INVOLVED
IN PLANNING TRIP AS IMPLIED IN REF A. SAADI REPLIED
THAT HE HAD RECEIVED NO INFORMATION TO DATE, BUT WAS
INCLINED TO DOUBT THAT EMBASSY WOULD BE ABLE TO PUT
TOGETHER ANY MAJOR PROGRAM WITHOUT USG INVOLVEMENT.

2. WE AGAIN URGE WASHINGTON AGENCIES' ASSISTANCE IN

PLANNING WHAT IS SEEN HERE TO BE MAJOR GOM EFFORT TO INCREASE US INVOLVMENT IN MOROCCO'S MINERAL DEVELOPMENT. IN LIGHT OF CURRENT PROBLEMS WITH MOROCCAN ARMS REQUEST, TOGETHER WITH FACT THAT PM OSMAN NOW PREPARING TO SIGN MESKALA PHOSPHATE AND RELATED TRADE ACCORDS IN MOSCOW MARCH 9 (RABAT 1358), WE BELIVE A HELPFUL USG RESPONSE TO SAADI'S REQUEST WOULD PROVIDE AT LITTLE COST TO OURSELVES SOME CONCRETE INDICATION OF USG'S INTEREST IN MOROCCO AND ITS HOPED FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

3. ON SUBSTANCE OF TRIP, WE NOW UNDERSTAND THAT MOUSSA SAADI WILL PROPOSE A BILATERAL USG/GOM COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT FOR DEVELOPING MOROCCO'S OIL SHALE DEPOSITS. SAADI TELLS US HE DISCUSSED THIS PROPOSAL WITH ENERGY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER DURING LATTER' VISIT TO MOROCCO. BASED ON SAADI'S MORE RECENT STATEMENTS (LATEST BEFORE MINING EQUIPMENT SEMINAR) AND KING'S REFERENCE TO OIL SHALE DEVELOPMENT IN MARCH 3 SPEECH FROM THE THRONE, WE GATHER PROJECT IS NOW CONSIDERED PRIORITY AREA FOR GOM ATTENTION. RABAT'S A-10 TRANSMITS DETAILS OF BACKGROUND AND CURRENT STATUS OF SAADI'S PROPOSALS AS BEST WE UNDERSTAND THEM.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. INFORMATION WE CAN PASS ASAP TO SAADI REGARDING PROPOSED REF B APPOINTMENTS AND MOVES THROUGHOUT US.
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